

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-15 and add the following new claims 16-27. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application.

16. (New) A method for stable expression of a transgene in a eukaryotic host cell, the method comprising:

a) providing a viral vector suitable for introduction into the eukaryotic host cell, wherein the viral vector encodes an altered viral movement protein and a transgene, and wherein the encoded altered movement protein comprises SEQ ID NO: 6;

b) introducing the viral vector into the eukaryotic host cell to produce a transformant host cell;

c) growing the transformant host cell under favorable conditions to effect transcription of the transgene; and

d) regenerating a transformant host cell into a transformant tissue or whole organism, thereby providing stable expression of the transgene.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the viral vector further comprises sequences encoding altered 126/183 viral proteins, wherein the altered 126/183 viral proteins enhance stabilization of the transgene encoded by the viral vector.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the altered 126/183 viral proteins have nucleic acid alterations at nucleotide positions 1138, 1268, 2382, and 3632 as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the viral vector comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the eukaryotic host cell comprises a whole plant, an isolated plant cell, or a protoplast.

21. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the eukaryotic host cell comprises a natural host for Agrobacterium, and wherein introducing the viral vector comprises performing Agrobacterium-mediated plant transformation.

22. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the eukaryotic host cell comprises a species that can be regenerated from a protoplast, and wherein introducing the viral vector comprises performing protoplast transformation.

23. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the eukaryotic host cell comprises a monocot, and wherein introducing the viral vector comprises performing calcium phosphate precipitation, polyethylene glycol treatment, electroporation, or a combination thereof.

24. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the eukaryotic host cell comprises a plant cell, and wherein introducing the viral vector comprises performing particle bombardment.

25. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the eukaryotic host cell comprises a plant cell, and wherein introducing the viral vector comprises performing a direct DNA transfer into pollen.

26. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the eukaryotic host cell comprises a plant cell, and wherein introducing the viral vector comprises performing hand inoculation of an upper surface of a leaf, a mechanical inoculation of a plant bed, a high pressure spray of a leaf, or a vacuum infiltration.

27. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein regenerating the transformant host cell comprises:

a) growing a transformant host cell in the presence of a selection medium that induces the generation of shoots in the plant species being transformed, thereby providing a transformant shoot;

b) transferring the transformant shoot to an appropriate root-inducing medium comprising the selection agent, and rooting the transformant shoot to form a plantlet; and

c) growing the plantlet in soil.